

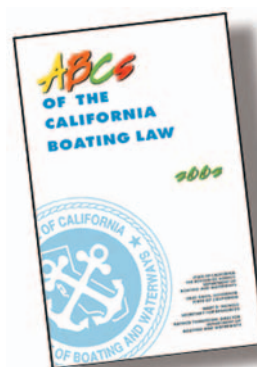
# California

## General Statistics



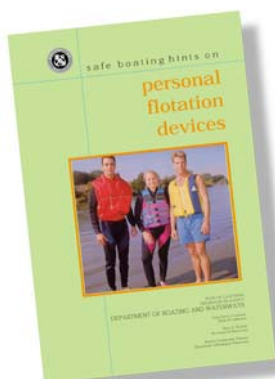
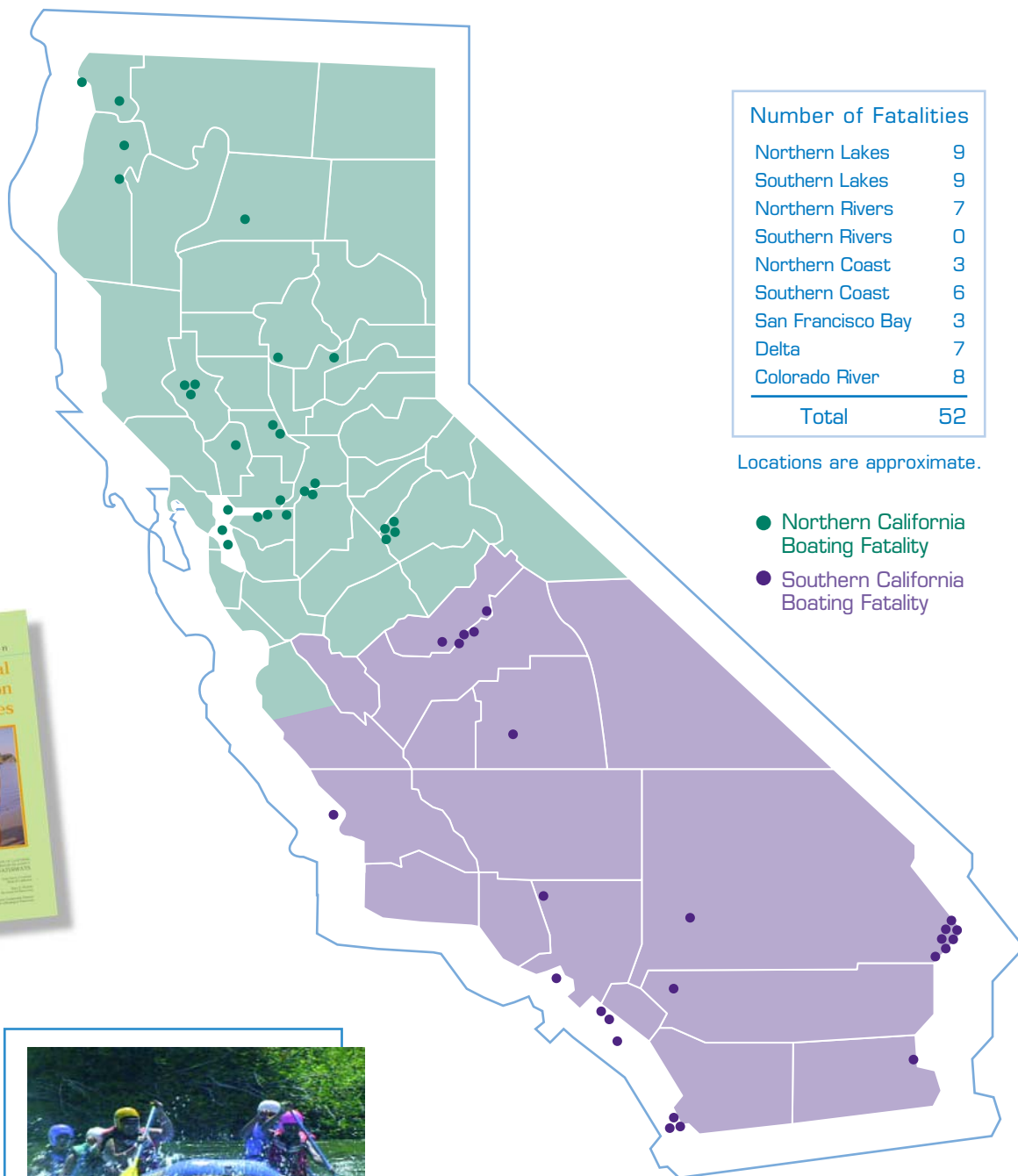
### 1980-2002 California Boating Accidents\*

Year	Number of Accidents	Number of Injuries	Number of Fatalities	Amount of Property Damage
1980	657	270	112	\$2,039,800
1981	728	319	87	\$3,655,630
1982	696	323	103	\$2,497,000
1983	648	333	95	\$3,713,100
1984	791	341	93	\$2,491,700
1985	869	403	76	\$4,246,400
1986	741	319	68	\$2,645,500
1987	905	325	54	\$3,381,600
1988	745	333	51	\$2,396,100
1989	632	371	43	\$3,669,800
1990	761	416	50	\$3,131,200
1991	750	421	58	\$2,653,800
1992	689	447	59	\$4,360,100
1993	743	434	67	\$2,052,800
1994	709	386	40	\$1,740,300
1995	833	490	52	\$2,536,500
1996	850	537	56	\$2,241,700
1997	925	526	43	\$3,266,800
1998	772	413	58	\$2,299,600
1999	907	491	42	\$2,864,000
2000	906	524	51	\$3,038,400
2001	907	502	48	\$2,841,900
<b>2002</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>\$3,732,850</b>



\* An accident is considered reportable if: a person dies, disappears, or is injured requiring medical attention beyond first aid; vessel or other property damage exceeds \$500; or there is complete loss of a vessel. Not all accidents are reported to the Department, due to either nonobservance or ignorance of the reporting law.

## 2002 California Boating Fatalities by Location \*



\* Monterey County statistics are split between Northern and Southern California.

# California

## General Statistics

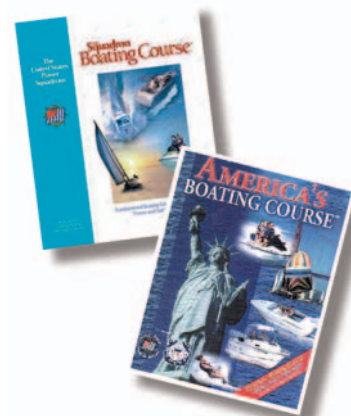


### 2002 California Boating Accidents by County\*

County	Number of Accidents	Number of Injuries	Number of Fatalities	Amount of Property Damage
Alameda	8	1	0	\$37,300
Amador	1	1	0	\$1,250
Butte	6	2	1	\$8,200
Calaveras	8	4	0	\$14,500
Colusa	2	2	0	\$700
Contra Costa	32	20	3	\$452,800
Del Norte	3	2	2	\$2,700
El Dorado	19	12	0	\$75,000
Fresno	10	10	3	\$45,850
Glenn	3	1	0	\$5,550
Humboldt	9	10	2	\$51,000
Imperial	8	6	1	\$17,200
Kern	6	1	0	\$18,300
Kings	1	1	0	\$3,000
Lake	10	9	3	\$24,000
Lassen	4	1	0	\$9,600
Los Angeles	67	31	2	\$216,000
Madera	18	10	2	\$166,000
Marin	18	4	1	\$73,600
Mariposa	3	1	0	\$16,000
Mendocino	4	2	0	\$52,100
Merced	3	0	0	\$5,250
Monterey**	17	6	0	\$39,550
Napa	34	20	1	\$70,150
Nevada	3	3	0	\$3,000
Orange***	82	13	3	\$453,000

Northern California

Southern California



\* An accident is considered reportable if: a person dies, disappears, or is injured requiring medical attention beyond first aid; vessel or other property damage exceeds \$500; or there is complete loss of a vessel. Not all accidents are reported to the Department, due to either nonobservance or ignorance of the reporting law.

\*\* Monterey County statistics are split between Northern and Southern California.

\*\*\* The increase in boating accidents in Orange County when compared with accident totals appearing in previous reports is not due to an increase in accidents, but rather to an increase in the reporting of accidents to the Department.

## General Statistics

## 2002 California Boating Accidents by County\* (continued)

County	Number of Accidents	Number of Injuries	Number of Fatalities	Amount of Property Damage
Placer	27	15	0	\$347,050
Plumas	5	6	0	\$10,000
Riverside	67	50	1	\$126,750
Sacramento	24	14	2	\$50,250
San Bernardino	44	34	8	\$154,400
San Diego	79	43	3	\$205,950
San Francisco	16	3	2	\$109,150
San Joaquin	67	32	1	\$303,250
San Luis Obispo	20	7	1	\$72,250
San Mateo	10	4	0	\$24,000
Santa Barbara	8	3	0	\$50,400
Santa Clara	5	4	0	\$5,000
Santa Cruz	3	0	0	\$14,500
Shasta	61	35	1	\$85,050
Solano	14	3	1	\$59,850
Sonoma	4	4	0	\$26,000
Stanislaus	11	3	0	\$44,400
Sutter	2	0	0	\$6,000
Tehama	3	1	0	\$22,000
Trinity	15	11	0	\$19,600
Tulare	6	4	1	\$7,500
Tuolumne	19	12	4	\$23,600
Ventura	10	5	0	\$39,050
Yolo	5	0	2	\$28,050
Yuba	6	2	1	\$37,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>\$3,732,850</b>

Northern  
CaliforniaSouthern  
California

\* An accident is considered reportable if: a person dies, disappears, or is injured requiring medical attention beyond first aid; vessel or other property damage exceeds \$500; or there is complete loss of a vessel. Not all accidents are reported to the Department, due to either nonobservance or ignorance of the reporting law.





# California

## General Statistics



### 2002 California Registered Vessels and PWC

County	Total Registered PWC	Total Registered Vessels (includes PWC)
Alameda	3,973	29,466
Alpine	4	128
Amador	154	3,020
Butte	1,028	15,837
Calaveras	344	5,369
Colusa	91	1,346
Contra Costa	5,401	38,399
Del Norte	48	1,468
El Dorado	919	13,899
Fresno	2,405	21,736
Glenn	129	1,908
Humboldt	417	7,509
Imperial	558	2,508
Inyo	185	1,212
Kern	2,757	15,890
Kings	518	2,726
Lake	937	10,400
Lassen	199	3,158
Los Angeles	34,810	123,009
Madera	561	5,617
Marin	554	9,663
Mariposa	72	1,414
Mendocino	367	5,071
Merced	757	6,507
Modoc	22	715
Mono	151	1,623
Monterey*	1,063	9,301
Napa	579	7,104
Nevada	400	9,302
Orange	18,913	62,658



Northern  
California

Southern  
California

\* Monterey County statistics are split between Northern and Southern California.



## General Statistics

## 2002 California Registered Vessels and PWC (continued)

County	Total Registered PWC	Total Registered Vessels (includes PWC)
Placer	1,896	19,457
Plumas	178	3,674
Riverside	15,163	47,309
Sacramento	4,603	45,324
San Benito	319	1,928
San Bernardino	15,582	49,590
San Diego	12,320	65,384
San Francisco	398	4,238
San Joaquin	2,542	24,867
San Luis Obispo	1,430	12,808
San Mateo	1,882	13,306
Santa Barbara	1,191	10,384
Santa Clara	4,892	30,187
Santa Cruz	575	7,981
Shasta	1,100	18,042
Sierra	11	348
Siskiyou	119	4,050
Solano	1,688	15,726
Sonoma	2,049	19,868
Stanislaus	2,224	18,283
Sutter	495	5,365
Tehema	262	4,220
Trinity	58	2,115
Tulare	1,268	9,035
Tuolumne	321	5,976
Ventura	5,495	26,252
Yolo	439	5,988
Yuba	274	3,882
Out of State	597	2,540
<b>Total</b>	<b>157,687</b>	<b>896,090</b>



Northern  
California

Southern  
California

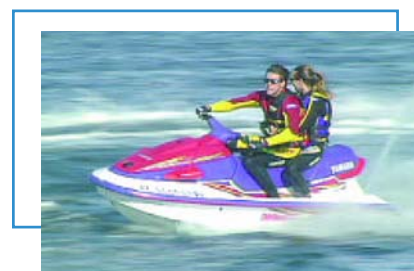
# California

## General Statistics



### 2002 California PWC Accidents by County\*

County	Number of Accidents	Number of Injuries	Number of Fatalities	Amount of Property Damage
Alameda	1	1	0	\$0
Amador	1	1	0	\$1,250
Butte	3	2	0	\$6,800
Calaveras	3	2	0	\$1,500
Colusa	1	1	0	\$700
Contra Costa	2	2	0	\$3,000
El Dorado	10	7	0	\$21,100
Fresno	3	1	0	\$11,000
Imperial	6	4	1	\$15,700
Kern	3	1	0	\$5,100
Kings	1	1	0	\$3,000
Lake	2	3	0	\$5,200
Los Angeles	19	15	1	\$46,900
Madera	6	5	0	\$8,200
Mendocino	1	0	0	\$2,100
Merced	1	0	0	\$2,050
Monterey**	7	4	0	\$10,150
Napa	13	11	0	\$27,100
Nevada	1	1	0	\$0
Orange***	2	1	0	\$2,100
Placer	14	8	0	\$28,150
Plumas	1	1	0	\$0
Riverside	42	33	1	\$92,500
Sacramento	6	6	0	\$12,200
San Bernardino	20	21	3	\$34,500
San Diego	24	22	0	\$35,900
San Joaquin	11	8	0	\$28,250
San Luis Obispo	6	3	0	\$7,200
Santa Barbara	1	2	0	\$7,500
Shasta	15	10	0	\$23,100
Sonoma	1	1	0	\$0
Stanislaus	7	1	0	\$14,900
Sutter	1	0	0	\$5,000
Tehama	1	1	0	\$7,000
Trinity	5	3	0	\$15,500
Tulare	4	3	0	\$7,500
Tuolumne	5	0	1	\$7,500
Yuba	3	2	0	\$24,600
<b>Totals</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>\$524,250</b>



Northern California

Southern California

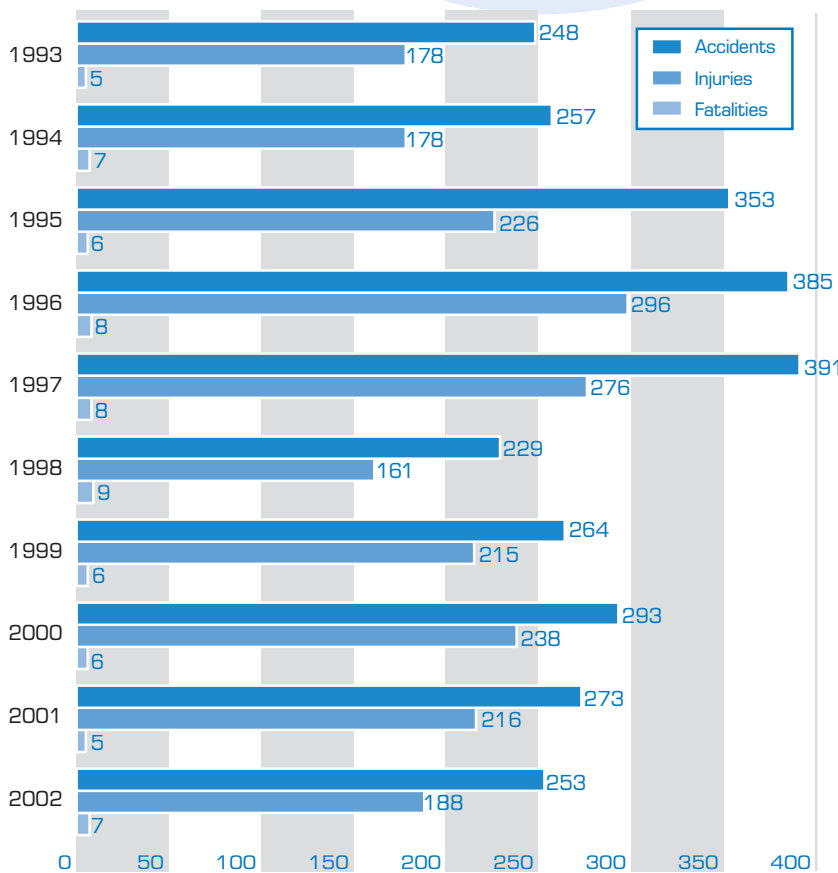
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# General Statistics

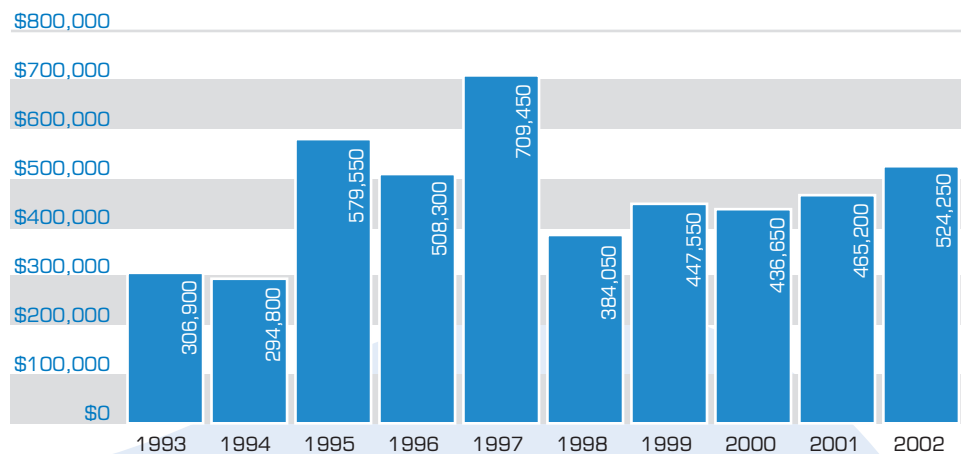
## 1993-2002 California PWC Accidents, Injuries, and Fatalities\*



\* An accident is considered reportable if: a person dies, disappears, or is injured requiring medical attention beyond first aid; damage to a vessel or other property exceeds \$500; or there is complete loss of a vessel. Not all accidents are reported to the Department, due to either nonobservance or ignorance of the reporting law.



## 1993-2002 California PWC Property Damage





# California

## General Statistics



### Boating Fatalities

#### General

- Nearly ½ (49%) of all boating fatalities were alcohol-related where testing could be conducted. (See reverse for more information regarding alcohol-related fatalities).
- Vessels capsizing (31%) and falls overboard (23%) were the most common types of boating fatalities.
- 44% of boating fatalities occurred during the “off season” of October-April.
- The majority (60%) of operators involved in boating fatalities were operating on water bodies within 30 miles of home.
- Of all victims involved in boating accidents, the majority (62%) drowned and of that group, 88% were not wearing a life jacket.
- In 2002, 2 victims died from carbon monoxide poisoning. Please see 2002 Safety Tips in this document for more information regarding the dangers of carbon monoxide in the boating environment.



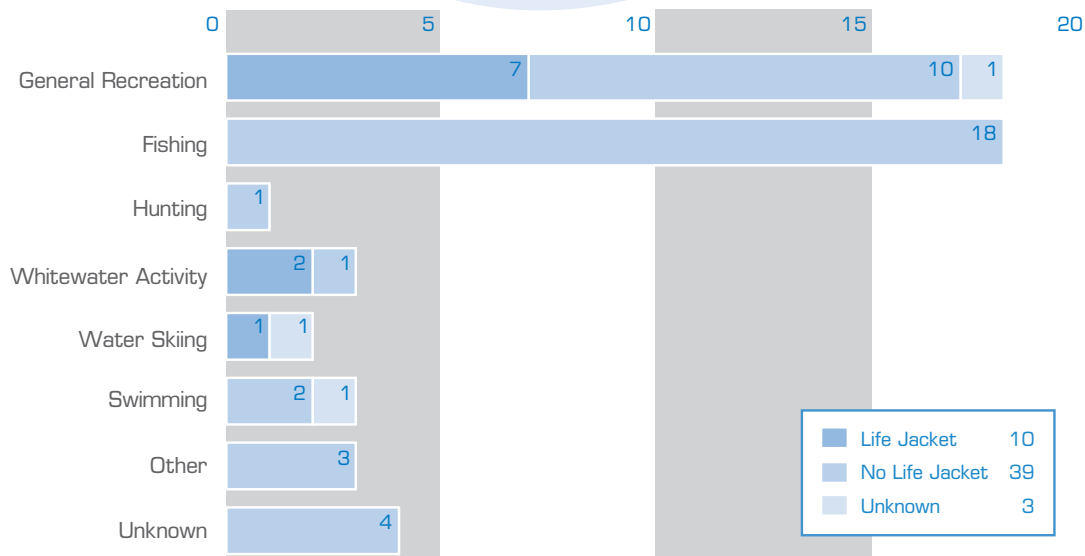
#### Fishing

- 18 victims died on fishing trips, accounting for over 1/3 of all fatalities in 2002.
- 2/3's of fishing fatalities occurred during the off-season of October through April.



## General Statistics

## Fatal Boating Accidents by Type and Life Jacket Usage\*



\* An accident is considered reportable if: a person dies, disappears, or is injured requiring medical attention beyond first aid; vessel or other property damage exceeds \$500; or there is complete loss of a vessel. Not all accidents are reported to the Department, due to either nonobservance or ignorance of the reporting law.



## Alcohol-Relatedness

- Nearly ½ (49%) of all boating fatalities were alcohol-related where testing could be conducted.
- All vessels involved in alcohol-related fatalities were motorized.
- Of all fatalities involving alcohol, 37% occurred during fishing trips.
- The majority of alcohol-related fatalities were the result of falls overboard (32%) or vessels capsizing (21%) followed by collisions with other vessels (16%) and vessels grounding (16%).
- The majority (68%) of victims drowned. Of this group, none were wearing life jackets.
- Of the 11 passengers killed in alcohol-related boating accidents, 8 (73%) contributed to their deaths due to poor judgment related to alcohol consumption. This finding underscores the Department's long-held view that the "designated driver" concept, which works well regarding motor vehicles, does not go far enough in the boating environment. Intoxicated passengers in and around vessels are exposed to dangers that do not affect passengers in a motor vehicle, such as falling overboard or swimming too close to a moving propeller.



# California

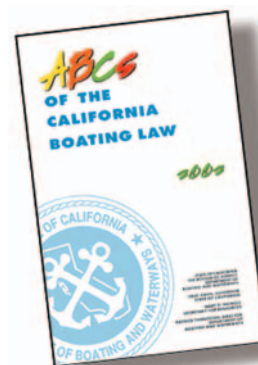
## General Statistics



### Recent Changes in California Boating Law

#### Boating Safety Course

Any person convicted of any moving violation in the Harbors and Navigation Code, the Federal Rules of the Road and regulations adopted by DBW, while operating a vessel, shall be ordered by the court to complete and pass a boating safety course approved by the Department of Boating and Waterways. *Proof of completion and passage of the course must be submitted to the court within seven months of the time of conviction.*



#### Life Jacket Use

Persons using any **underwater** maneuvering device are exempt from wearing a personal flotation device. An **underwater** maneuvering device is any towed or self-powered apparatus designed for underwater use that a person can pilot through diving, turning and surfacing maneuvers.

#### PWC Operation

As of January 1, 2003, the prohibition hours for personal watercraft operation have been adjusted and now mirror the hours of prohibited water skiing. Personal watercraft and water skiing are from sunset to sunrise.

#### False Search and Rescue Calls

Under existing law, it is a misdemeanor for a person to knowingly make a false report concerning an emergency to a governmental agency where the emergency results in, or could result in, the response of a public official in an emergency aircraft or vessel.

#### Vessel Sewage

A state or local peace officer who reasonably suspects that a vessel is discharging sewage in an area where the discharge is prohibited may board that vessel of the owner or operator is aboard, for the purpose of inspecting the marine sanitation device for proper operation and placing a dye tablet in the holding tank.

The law now further provides that it is a felony for any individual to report, or cause any report to be made, to any state or local government agency that an emergency exists, and who knows or should know that the response to the report is likely to cause death or great bodily injury and such injury or death is sustained by any person as a result of the false report.

## 2002 California Boating Safety Tips

### Before Going Out...

#### **Education**

Many accidents happen because the operator did not know some of the most basic boating safety rules. The Department offers a comprehensive home study course that boaters can order free of charge by calling (888) 326-2822. The Department also offers free safety information including videos, pamphlets, and other materials on such topics as PWC operation, water skiing, and fishing.

The Department sponsors a number of aquatic programs statewide where boaters can get on-the-water training in a variety of activities. Visit our Website at [www.dbw.ca.gov](http://www.dbw.ca.gov) to locate classes in your area, or link to the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or the U.S. Power Squadrons who also offer courses.

#### **Maintenance and Equipment Check**

Check that your vessel is in good working order before taking it out on the water. Many accidents caused by inoperable bilge pumps, engine problems, and leaks in the hull could have been avoided with proper maintenance.

Make sure your vessel is equipped with all required safety equipment and that everyone on board knows where it is.

#### **Check the Weather**

Many accidents could have been avoided if the operator had checked the weather before venturing out. For your local forecast, visit the National Weather Service's Website at [www.wrh.noaa.gov/wrhq/nwspage.html](http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/wrhq/nwspage.html). Weather broadcasts can be heard 24 hours a day in Northern California from San Francisco on 162.55 MHz and from Eureka on 162.40 MHz and in Southern California from Los Angeles on 162.55 MHz and from San Diego on 162.4 MHz. Know your vessel's limitations concerning the type of water conditions it can handle and tell someone where you are going and when you plan to return.



### Once Underway...

#### **Avoiding a Collision**

Situation: Meeting head-on  
Rule: Keep to the right

Situation: Crossing  
Rule: Give the right-of-way to vessels to the right

Situation: Overtaking another vessel  
Rule: Give the right of way to the other vessel and allow plenty of room

#### **Carbon Monoxide-Related Fatalities**

The inhalation of carbon monoxide fumes was a factor in 2 fatalities in 2002. During the last several years, victims have died as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning. Dangerous behaviors include:

- Leaning over the stern of the vessel while the engine is engaged
- Teak surfing (body surfing by holding onto the swim step of a vessel that is underway and then letting go and surfing the vessel's wake.)
- Improper ventilation in an enclosed cabin
- Swimming near the stern of a vessel whose engine is engaged.